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TO ADAMS/HARBAN/RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY

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TOHAK #11

THE WASHINGTON POST THURSDAY, JULY 10, 1975

HAIG DESCRIBES PROBE OF LEAKS

MISTRUST OF KISSINGER HINTED
 BY TIMOTHY S. ROBINSON

GEN. ALEXANDER M. HAIG HAS SUGGESTED THAT MISTRUST BY MEMBERS OF THE WHITE HOUSE STAFF IN 1969 OF THEN NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL AIDE HENRY KISSINGER MAY HAVE PROMPTED THE SENDING OF IDENTICAL DUAL REPORTS FROM THE FBI TO BOTH KISSINGER AND PRESIDENT NIXON ABOUT WIRETAPS OF NEWSMEN AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS.

THE NEWSMEN AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS WERE TAPPED AS PART OF A WIDE-RANGING PROBE OF ALLEGED LEAKS OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION TO THE PRESS. HAIG'S COMMENTS ABOUT KISSINGER WERE MADE IN A DEPOSITION FILED YESTERDAY IN U.S. DISTRICT COURT IN A LAWSUIT BY ONE OF THE TAPPED PERSONS, FORMER NATIONAL SECURITY AIDE MORTON HALPERIN, AND IS HAIG'S MOST DETAILED PUBLIC DESCRIPTION OF HIS ROLE IN THAT PROGRAM.

THE DEPOSITION DESCRIBES IN DETAIL THE CLIMATE IN WHICH THE TAPS WERE PLACED ON NEWSMEN AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, AND TRACES HAIG'S ROLE AS THE PROPOSED BRIEF SURVEILLANCES OF 17 PERSONS DEVELOPED OVER THE NEXT TWO YEARS. HAIG HIMSELF DESCRIBES HIS ROLE AS A "CONDUIT" IN THE OPERATION, NEITHER AN "URGER OR AN ADVOCATE OF A DISADVOCATE."

HOWEVER, HIS ANSWERS TO THE DEPOSITION PORTRAY HIM AS THE SOLE LIAISON BETWEEN THE WHITE HOUSE AND THE FBI FOR THE EARLY PART OF THE PROGRAM, AND THE PERSON WHO PERSONALLY SET UP THE PROCEDURES, TRANSMITTED TO THE FBI THE NAMES OF MANY OF THE PERSONS TO BE TAPPED, AND WHO WOULD READ THE

*****WHSR COMMENT*****

McFARLANE, RODMAN, SDO, SECFLF

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WIRETAP REPORTS AT FBI HEADQUARTERS AND TELL KISSINGER WHAT AS IN THEM.

HE QUIT MAKING THE ORAL REPORTS TO KISSINGER AFTER A WHILE, HE SAID, AND THE FBI BEGAN SENDING WRITTEN REPORTS TO BOTH KISSINGER AND NIXON. ONE REASON FOR THE WRITTEN REPORTS, HAIG SUGGESTED, WAS BECAUSE SOME WHITE HOUSE AIDES MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN "TOTALLY COMFORTABLE WITH DR. KISSINGER'S OWN REPORTING OF INFORMATION."

"HE WAS SUSPECT, TO SOME INDIVIDUALS - I CANNOT SAY WHO - TO SOME HE MAY HAVE BEEN PERCEIVED TO BE PART OF THE PROBLEM" OF LEAKS, HAIG CONTINUED.

HE SAID WHITE HOUSE STAFFERS "WHO WERE LOYALIST AND PARTISAN IN THEIR PERCEPTION" MAY HAVE BEEN SUSPICIOUS OF KISSINGER BECAUSE HE HAD WORKED ON THE KENNEDY ADMINISTRATION "AND THERE WERE MANY PEOPLE AT THAT TIME THAT WERE ACCUSING HIM OF BEING VERY LEFT OF CENTER."

HAIG WAS AT THE TIME AN AIDE TO KISSINGER IN THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. HE SUBSEQUENTLY BECAME WHITE HOUSE CHIEF OF STAFF IN THE LAST YEAR AND A HALF OF THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION AND IS NOW HEAD OF NATO FORCES IN EUROPE.

IN THE DEPOSITION HAIG SAID ALTHOUGH THE INVESTIGATION OF ALLEGED LEAKS BEGAN AFTER A NEW YORK TIMES STORY ON THEN SECRET CAMBODIAN BOMBING PLANS, IT GREW OUT OF AN ATMOSPHERE OF "CONTINUING HEMORRHAGING OF HIGHLY CLASSIFIED INFORMATION INTO THE MEDIA".

HE POINTED OUT, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT A MEMORANDUM THAT GREW OUT OF THE VERY FIRST MEETING OF THE NSC DURING THE NIXON ADMINISTRATION WAS "I BELIEVE IN 48 HOURS, COMPROMISED IN THE NEW YORK TIMES."

HE SAID THAT WHEN THE WIRE TAP PROGRAM BEGAN HE WAS "ABSOLUTELY CONFIDENT THAT DR. KISSINGER CONVEYED TO ME INSTRUCTIONS THAT HE HAD RECEIVED FROM THE PRESIDENT, AND HE DID MENTION THE DIRECTOR OF THE FBI HAVING BEEN IN AND APPROVING THIS PROGRAM."

HAIG TOLD FBI ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR WILLIAM SULLIVAN THAT THE PROGRAM WAS HIGHLY SENSITIVE AND DISCUSSED "TRAILING AND SURVEILLANCE AND OVERALL ASSESSMENT OF A MAN'S RELIABILITY."

HAIG SAID ONE REASON HE SUGGESTED TO THE FBI THAT LITTLE UNNECESSARY PAPERWORK BE KEPT ON THE PROGRAM GREW OUT OF HIS KNOWLEDGE OF AN INCIDENT THAT OCCURRED WHEN HE WORKED IN THE PENTAGON UNDER THEN DEFENSE SECRETARY ROBERT MC NAMARA IN THE EARLY 1960'S.

AT THAT TIME, THEN FBI DIRECTOR J. EDGAR HOOVER "SENT OVER A REPORT ON MARTIN LUTHER KING, WHICH JUST ABOUT BLEW THE PENTAGON APART, IT WAS SO - YOU KNOW, ANTI-KING IN CHARACTER AND HAND-TAILORED BY MR. HOOVER TO BE DAMAGING, AND IT WAS FLUSHED ALL THROUGH THE BUREAUCRACY. I REMEMBER MR. MC NAMARA THOUGHT THAT WAS A DELIBERATE THING BY THE DIRECTOR TO JEOPARDIZE MR. KING, AND I THINK THAT IS THE

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KIND OF CONCERNS THAT WE HAD," HAIG SAID.

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